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RECREATION AND CULTURAL DEVELOPMENT MAGAZINE

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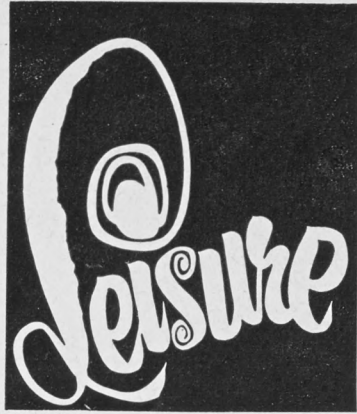


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Quote Of The Month

"The years from thirty to seventy
were formerly a sort of dump for
the consequences of the first three
decades; now they are the main
part of life, the years of work,
expression and complete self-
discovery, to which these earlier
stages are the bright, delightful
prelude."
H. G. Wells

—The Shape of Things to Come.

SPACE

for the

FUTURE

Long Range Planning for acquisition



How many delegates read an article in "TIME" dated August 18th, headed "THE CITY" New-Town Blues. "Take a working-class family living in a grimy overcrowded urban slum. Move it to a spanking-clean new garden city, cheerfully designed and well-planned, where there are plenty of lawns, light and airy schools, spacious, rainproof shopping centres, no heavy traffic to menace the children. Would the family be happy in its new surroundings?" Not very, says Britain's Ministry of Housing; the twelve new towns in question were supposed to be the ultimate ideal of integrated parkscape and urban settlement, yet apparently people don't like living in them.

There has never been a comparable report in Canada because there have been fewer complete communities developed; but is the average British family so different from the average

By: W B. Graham City Planner for the City of Saskatoon, Saskatchewan from a talk delivered at the 16th Annual Parks and Recreation Association of Canada Convention.

Canadian family, and if so, would the tabulated results of a Canadian study be very much different, for after all, the aims and ideals of park designers in North America are essentially the same as those in Europe. It may be, that before we can say how we acquire "Space for the future", we have to determine what kind of space we are talking about.

For this purpose, space can be divided into two broad categories; space in the wilderness and space in communities. By studying each category, it may be possible to pinpoint our future space needs based on observations of what people really seem to want, not what planners think is good for them; and evidence is piling up that when we create large scale wilderness parks, we are on the right track, but that we should re-examine what we are doing at home.

A few scattered facts may support this contention. Municipal executives in small communities in Saskatchewan—when questioned about recreation needs—in almost every case, found no deficiency when no local park existed in their community, but found it a grave omission when there was no regional park within easy car access.

The National Resources Conference in Montreal will apparently emphasize the following main theme: "Increased leisure is causing a tremendous growth in outdoor recreation with no foreseeable end to this growth in sight. The demand is for forests, lakes, parklands, camp sites and waterways accessible to weekend travel. Biggest pressure is on the regions surrounding Canada's heavily-

populated cities and in the main vacation districts."

During a recent address, Walter Dinsdale, Minister of Northern Affairs, emphasized that the National Parks Department would be spending \$500,000 this year for improving facilities in the seventeen National Parks in Canada. Camping facilities were being given priority because there had been an upsurge in camping holidays in the United States. Sixteen million, five hundred thousand citizens would take to the road looking for wilderness camping, and a proportional number of Canadians were doing the same thing. This, again points out the need for an intensification of our efforts to acquire property for future development as large scale parks.

Provincial Governments are following the lead in creating Provincial Parks and there is proof that increasing numbers of people are commuting to the wilderness to permanent cottages, tents, and for a single picnic. It is no problem to acquire this kind of land—both the Federal and Provincial Governments control large tracts of undeveloped wild country which can be made available. They can expropriate and they have the money. It is then only a question of diverting the funds and creating the drive necessary to set up more parks after having decided on where there is land with the necessary characteristics, within reach of towns and cities.

To see what communities should do about parks and recreation, we should look at the main reason for the demanding for large acreage, wide-



spread open space, for in this way we might decide to change our present open space patterns. The key to the change is in the newly acquired mobility of the population. We no longer think in terms of one, but two-car families. Motor vehicle registrations have increased 98.6% in Canada in the last ten years and the rate of increase is increasing, not tailing off.

Unlike the days of foot travel and horse and buggy, there is no need for people to seek their outdoor fun locally—they can get away from their home and their home town, and they can “get to the lake”—by car. Even if father has the car for work, then mother has a second car to “take” the children to a distant, rather than a local park. People like to travel, it adds greater perspective to their recreation, and a spirit of adventure to their fun—in addition, they have become too lazy to walk. If people like to travel for their recreation, then there is no reason why “wilderness parks” should be restricted to Federal and Provincial jurisdiction.

There is no reason why villages, towns, or cities should not do the same thing. If property in the town or city is too expensive for parks, then may not the answer be to create a city-controlled park 20 miles away, with all the normal attractions, and the added attraction of being away from home and somewhere to drive to. Surely it is possible for several communities to get together and similar to the farmer cities, which seem to be a product of rural regrouping, recreation cities could be set up which would serve the needs of surrounding communities, who could pool their resources to make a much better park than each could provide alone. Once more, the land acquisition is the least problematic, because in most cases the terrain needed for “wilderness” or countryside parks is useless for anything else.

So much for parks outside the built-up area of Canada, but what about open spaces inside our communities? Big parks outside cities are needed, but we cannot build unbroken tracts

of houses without any open spaces, even though this would be an attractive way of reducing service costs.

What should be done about designing and acquiring open space within the built up area? Firstly, it is clear that even within towns, the emphasis is on motor travel, and not on foot travel.

Secondly, increased sophistication in the desire for entertainment means that most people are no longer content merely to sit or to look at things.

Thirdly, the development of the well landscaped back yard has removed much of the need for well landscaped public open spaces. Very few back yards are now unkept, they have become outdoor rooms. This function of the residential outdoors has been stressed over and over again in popular magazines and whereas, in the past, people would go to local parks to picnic, they now picnic at home and have their own patio and their own barbecue.

Fourthly, the cost of planting and maintaining parks is going up and not down, and there is a limit to how many acres of park can be provided unless a new technique can be devised for utilizing our open space.

If these ideas are correct, then they should be related to park design and reservation to define any changes which they may indicate to the planner.

To allow people motor mobility to give them places to visit and things to do it is necessary to look for open space which is large enough for golf courses, baseball fields, children's zoos, adventure playgrounds, scenic drives, picnic places and even tent camps within, or close to urban limits.

By consolidating recreation space into large parcels, it should be possible to provide activities for the whole family, and at the same time economize. In addition, the reservation of areas of at least one hundred acres for this type of park is usually easy to anticipate well in advance and if they are left with some undeveloped natural areas in a decentralized location, then land costs are usually low and purchase easy.

Yet, there is a limit to the number of large parks that can be developed and financed, whether inside or outside the city, and it is the smaller local park areas that need the closest examination.

If we are content to have the burnt out, unkempt open space that many of the small parks in the residential areas of some towns seem to be, then providing space is not hard. If, however, we expect well-tended, intensively developed open spaces of the present type in every neighbourhood, then the cost will be out of proportion to the result.

The change of emphasis from walking to driving is accelerating the failure of our present idea of local parks. Certainly it is a pleasurable event to walk or drive past a well kept park, but the pleasure becomes less noticeable to a Planner or Park Superintendent if the park is consistently empty and is costing thousands of dollars a year to maintain. Is then, our present system of planning local parks correct? In order to answer this question, we have to examine the present system of planning neighbourhoods.

Neighbourhoods are usually designed with a central core consisting of the school, a few stores and apartments, and the single local park. This park is often the only public open space within the built-up residential area and, in some cases, is associated with the school site. For the reasons outlined, it is rarely visited by grown ups and not often by children from the perimeter of the area.

People nevertheless still need recreation, but they need open space which is usable to them as a family. A central park in a 200 acre neighbourhood is always further away from some houses than others. Whereas it is easy for the children in houses that abut the park to run across the road, or out of the back garden into the open space, people now will just not walk from the boundary of a neighbourhood to the park. Should we, therefore, be continuing to emphasize central neighbourhood parks? Why do we not, for instance, provide a park of about one acre for every twenty houses? If the area of the central park is distributed among groups of houses throughout a neighbourhood so that well kept one-acre parks were visible every few dozen yards along the road, would this not, therefore, give us the same visual effect of a central park, with less problems. The cluster form of subdivision design would lend itself to the park system and there would be advantages in addition to those which are obvious.

Citizens have shown that they will maintain public open space if it is continuous with their own property. The city boulevard bordering the

private lawn is always cut and watered—the outside boulevard is not. In the same way, after making a park continuous with the garden, there is no reason why responsibility for maintenance cannot be with the citizen judiciously encouraged by a by-law and aided by the municipal parks department, in the form of grants and equipment.

Furthermore, when so many residential subdivisions, particularly in the older parts of Canada, are based upon small private holdings, the creation of larger scale parks becomes difficult by replotting large tracts, whereas if parks were only one acre, then every developer could be required, by regulations, to provide small open spaces as part of his development approval.

An important feature of this idea is the need for continuity with the private gardens. There must be no separation, no lane and no road between. The "Spacelets" created would be an extension of the back yard—usable by the whole family.

School sites will still be needed, but they can be located at the confluence of several "Spacelets", fusing and extending the use of each. Children would not only step out of their backyard into the park, but would never need to step onto a road on their way to school.

We use figures to compute space requirements in built-up areas. We think in terms of neighbourhood and district parks totalling about ten acres per thousand people, and additional sub-regional parks within 30 or 40 miles totalling another ten acres per thousand people. These figures may

still be used but the space will be distributed in a new way.

Apart from theories of park design, there are also some new ideas on the basic acquisition of park land which are worth more study. Whereas it is essential to have a clear picture, well ahead of the parks we need to obtain land when it is cheap. There are other alternatives which should also be mentioned.

Most subdivision regulations demand that a percentage of open space must be dedicated by the developer for public use. When a haphazard series of private holdings occur in a development area, other techniques must be examined. One method is to use "replotting schemes". Several Provincial Planning Acts provide that when an area containing a heterogeneous collection of private owners requires to be planned, then the municipality, if it has two-thirds consent, can consolidate all the land and redistribute the holdings into a contemporary pattern, at the same time providing open spaces in the form of parks and other community facilities. This technique should be explored wherever available.

In Saskatoon, as an example, seventeen replotting schemes were used to develop six neighbourhoods in the last three or four years. Each of these has provided parks at no cost to the City, where none existed previously.

The obvious direct solution to providing parks is to plan far enough ahead so that the community can buy land outright, when it is a few dollars an acre; but what means are available when the community wishes

to maintain open space without outright purchase for future park needs?

It may be possible we have the answer in a memorandum on Conserving Open Space by Easement, prepared by William H. White, Jr. Washington, D. C., Urban Land Institute in 1959. Not only can the public acquire property outright, but it can buy only that element of it that will serve the public's purpose.

Property is now considered to be a composite bundle of rights. We may buy the whole bundle of rights (that is acquire the land in fee simple), or less than the whole bundle, or an 'easement'.

Back in the 1920's, a study for the park needs of Washington D. C. recommended six methods for withdrawing land from "urban occupation"; one of them was the acquisition of rights in land or 'easement'. Up to the present, most officials have concentrated on the outright acquisition of land for parks, but easements can complement and protect park land, and they provide some definite recreation benefits of their own—for even if the public is not allowed on the land itself, it can enjoy the existence of open space.

The drive through farmland is enjoyable because there is farmland. It may be, therefore, that the conservation of open space by easement is another way to reserve parks, for if the public have an easement over property—to keep it as open space—then this is an inexpensive way of reserving it, even though we may not be sure at the time exactly what future use the community might make

of it. Although the public would still have to pay for land, the easement would have protected the open space.

We can also protect future parks by long term options to buy land provided the planning is far enough advanced. This technique is being used in Saskatoon, where the City Council took options on large tracts of land beginning in 1953—which is only now being developed—at the suggestion of the planners. Land costs were a maximum of about three hundred dollars an acre, and it is now worth many times more. Future needs, therefore, can be protected by taking low cost, long term options, plus in many cases, ensuring the future purchase of the land at its existing use value. This again is worth study.

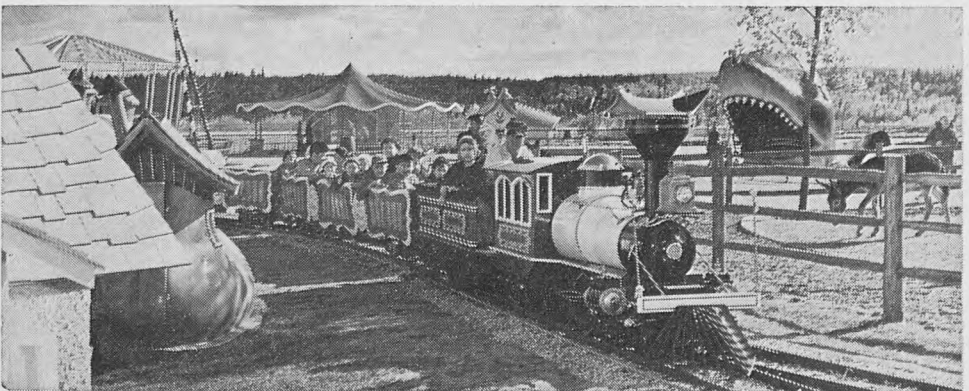
If we merely wish to provide visual open space, another study by the Santa Clara County authority in California, suggests that many of the existing rights-of-way of such things as power lines, gas lines and other facilities which sterilize land for development, may be turned into continuous parkways by cooperation with the corporations concerned. Here

again, is a cheap way of obtaining land within or outside city limits for public open space. It may be that the community need never acquire the land, but merely the right to plant and maintain it, for if otherwise, would be completely neglected.

Nothing can be achieved in parks or recreation activities without planning and thinking. I suggest that you study what has been said about the idea of big parks, "spacelets", replotting, easements, options and rights-of-way and see if they will work in your case.

We started out by commenting on the British new towns. The conclusion of the Ministry of Housing Report says this: "The new towns of the future may well find it important to aim at a more truly urban design, congested, commercial and happenstance."

Unless, we, in Canada, do something about changing our thoughts on towns and open space and try to give the people the sort of open spaces they apparently want, we may be feeling, (in twenty years' time), the way the new town planners must feel today.



Seek Junior Bandsmen for Military Training

THE recent establishment of a special training plan for Junior Bandsmen in the Regular Army offers new opportunities for young men who want a career in music and a life of adventure.

Applicants for this plan, which is conducted on a tri-Service basis, must be between the ages of 17 and 19. Enrolments usually take place twice a year, in January and in July. After enrolment recruits undergo a period of approximately five months recruit training with a Regular Army unit and then receive annual leave before commencing their musical course at the R.C.N. School of Music itself. French speaking applicants carry out their recruit training with a French-speaking unit where they also receive English language training.

All entrants under this plan undertake to serve as Army Bandsmen for an initial period of seven years.

R.C.N. School of Music

The musical training for this tri-Service plan is conducted at the Royal Canadian Navy School of Music, HMCS Naden, Esquimalt, B.C. Courses usually begin in May and November of each year for a period of 22 months—immediately following the period of recruit training and annual leave for each intake.

At the School of Music recruits receive a thorough training in the playing of various military band instruments, the theory of music and its special application to military life.

On graduating from the R.C.N.

School of Music recruits are posted as qualified Group 1 Bandsmen to one or other of the famous Regular Army (Brass Reed) Bands.

Bandsmen enjoy, in common with all other members of the Regular Army, good rates of pay, excellent accommodation and food, annual leave with pay, free medical and dental care, appropriate extra allowances and the opportunity of comradeship, travel and adventure. According to individual skill and achievement, they may also qualify for extra trades pay. Advancement and promotion are regulated solely by personal merit.

Candidates for training as Junior Bandsmen must possess some knowledge of music and the basic aptitude for learning to play military band instruments. A musical assessment of each candidate will be carried out by a Director of Music of the Regular Army at the time of application. In addition the candidate must be able to meet the following enrolment conditions:

He must be a Canadian citizen or meet requirements for comparable status; be between 17 and 19 years of age; single; have a Grade 8 education or better; pass Army medical tests; provide character references; and have parental approval if under 18.

Further information and full details on how to apply for enrolment can be obtained without obligation, by writing Capt. A. Brown, The Command Inspector of Bands, Headquarters Western Command, Edmonton, Alta.

INTIMATE THEATRE IS HOUSED IN RENOVATED SCHOOLHOUSE

by R. Swenarchuk

EDMONTON theatre-goers have responded enthusiastically to the capital city's—and Alberta's—first permanent "intimate theatre". Operated by the Edmonton Theatre Associates, a comparatively new group formed in the fall of 1959, the theatre is located in a refurbished and remodelled school house in the heart of the city.

The idea of a small playhouse where the talents of the community would have opportunity of taking part in the best of contemporary drama on a continuing basis was conceived in the fall of 1960. When directors of a popular Edmonton jazz group offered accommodation in their "Yardbird Suite" for intimate theatre productions, Theatre Associates members eagerly took up the challenge.

Initial presentations were well received and the format of the new

theatrical group was changed to its present club status. Actors, production staff and stage crew became active members, with the audience the associate members of the club.

The establishment of regular intimate theatre in Edmonton was not without its pitfalls. Productions in the Yardbird Suite were extremely well received but were curtailed after a three month season because of fire safety regulations.

Begin Search

The loss of these quarters served to emphasize the importance and need of a home base for any theatrical group. Theatre Associate members began their search for permanent quarters. It was not until late spring of this past year that a building of any potential was discovered. Located on

the south side of the North Saskatchewan River near Edmonton's 105 Street bridge was an old school house that raised a flicker of hope in the minds of T.A.'s directors when it was first examined. When no other suitable location could be found, the Walterdale School was purchased, becoming then the "Walterdale Playhouse".

Armed with limited funds but a great deal of enthusiasm for the project, Theatre Associates began the task of converting the old school into a theatre. Partitions in the body of the building were removed; the interior scrubbed clean and painted. A foyer the length of the school was built on a cement floor. It is designed and furnished like a sidewalk cafe where members of the audience can have coffee during play intermissions. Graphic works of local artists are displayed in the foyer as are plaques engraved with the names of persons and firms who contributed funds toward renovating the playhouse. The club points with pride to some of the distinguished names appearing on the plaques, including those of famous Broadway and Stratford stage designer Tanya Mcsiewitsch, and Broadway's playwright sensation of the season, Harold Pinter.

Smallest Theatre

The theatre itself is completely unique and probably the smallest in Canada. Actors play on a semi-round stage surrounded by 70 seats—full capacity. The nature of the stage demands sincere and honest acting because of the closeness to the audience. As one Theatre Associates director explained it, "You just simply cannot fake, not with the audience five feet away".

Directors are enthused over the favorable reaction of theatre-goers to this type of dramatic presentation but they feel that the Walterdale Playhouse is not the answer to Edmonton's drama needs. After only a few months of operation and playing to full houses with such plays as Osborne's "Epitaph of George Dillon"; Peter Ustinoff's "Romanoff and Juliet", and George Bernard Shaw's "Don Juan in Hell", the group is talking of expansion.

Provide Opportunity

Just when new and larger quarters will become a reality is a question Theatre Associates are not trying to answer at the present time. Their immediate concern is providing the opportunity for talented Edmontonians to appear on their stage—in experimental one-act plays—and original works such as "A Friendly Visit" by Edmonton playwright Mary Baldridge, and Christopher Fry's "Boy with A Cart".

The highlight of the first season at Walterdale Playhouse will be the presentation in late spring of "Barranca" by Alberta dramatist Jack McCreath. This Canadian Premiere of "Barranca" holds special significance due to the fact that Mr. McCreath was one of the original organizers of Theatre Associates and remains its most active booster.

Theatre Associates have taken a bold step forward in whetting the appetites of drama enthusiasts in Edmonton and Alberta with a new, for Alberta, concept in dramatic production.

Intimate theatre is here to stay!

Skiing in Alberta Offers Great Variety of Slopes

by
Doris Govier

SKIING in Alberta is like a promising child whose parents predict for him a brilliant future. Possessed of many inherent advantages of climate and terrain, and fostered by the devoted efforts of local ski clubs, skiing in Alberta should soon develop into impressive manhood.

The mountain ski resorts offer an exciting variety of ski experience, and many report improvements in their previous facilities. Sunshine, in addition to the pomalift leading to the gently winding Dell, has a new 2,800 foot T-bar towards Walla Walla ridge to provide intermediate runs for the more ambitious skiers. As well as the older Wolverine and Larch runs at Temple, Lake Louise now has a two-mile sedan lift on Whitehorn, and the recently-opened Mount Eagle pomalift which raises the skier to an altitude of 7,840 feet. From here it is possible to ski downhill on intermediate

runs, or to cross Eagle Ridge into Temple.

New Pomalift

Norquay, in addition to its electrifying chair lift, now boasts a new pomalift to replace the old rope tows. This lift begins below the Chalet and makes possible a longer intermediate or beginner's run than previously existed. Whistler's Rock and Roll, with its 2,000 foot pomalift, Marmot Basin with its high country spring skiing, and the Bald Hills of Maligne Lake, soon to be more accessible with the completion of the road skirting Medicine Lake, are Jasper's contributions to Alberta's ski paradise.

Other Clubs

But not all Alberta skiing is mountain skiing. There are active and



rapidly growing ski clubs at Edmonton, Calgary, Red Deer, Lacombe-Bentley, Grande Prairie, Camrose, Drayton Valley, the University of Alberta, Wetaskiwin, and Devcon—all hoping some day to challenge the supremacy of the Banff Ski Runners, and the Lake Louise and Jasper Ski Clubs.

The Edmonton Ski Club, with a membership of over two thousand, has financed through the sale of debentures a new snow machine, and when this is in operation hopes to extend its normal ski season by two or three months. Thirty-five members of the club received a week's ski instruction on the versatile slopes of Kimberley's North Star Mountain, and will partially supply the demand for instructors of the club's fast-growing membership. A new Edmonton club, the Snow Valley, is being organized, and healthy competition is being planned between the two groups.

New in Calgary

Calgary reports a new group, "The Skimeisters", which plans to develop young racers. The Red Deer Club has excellent facilities with three rope tows and an effective snow-making machine. The Lacombe-Bentley area is re-organizing at the moment, and Grande Prairie is considering a move from Smoky to Wapiti for better snow conditions. The venerable Camrose Ski Club is observing its fiftieth anniversary, and stressing, as in the past, the traditional Nordic events (cross country and jumping.) The Devcon Club has a fine jump and is

cutting a new slalom course on the North Saskatchewan River bank. The University of Alberta Ski team, recruited in Edmonton and Calgary, is training at Banff and plans to compete in the university ski meet at Banff in the spring. For all these clubs, which collectively constitute the Alberta Division of the Canadian Amateur Ski Association (C.A.S.A.), this will be a year of increased membership and activity.

Uniformity in Skill

Many instructors from the local clubs attended the Canadian Ski Alliance school at Sunshine last Easter and earned their S.I. (Ski Instructor's) badge. Translated into action, the S.I. badge means quality instruction and uniformity of method throughout all clubs and professional ski schools. The Provincial Government is sponsoring a school in January at Jasper to train coaches for outlying districts which do not at the moment have ski instruction. Information may be obtained through local ski clubs, and any good skier may apply.

On the theory that to develop a good skier, it is best to catch him young, the Alberta Division of the C.A.S.A. is for the first time sponsoring during the Christmas vacation ski schools for midget (eight to twelve-year-old) and juvenile (twelve to fourteen-year-old) skiers. The Jasper Ski Club is acting as host this year, and it is hoped that other ski clubs will in future fall in line with similar offers of hospitality. The juvenile and midget schools are thought to be the first of their kind in Canada. From

the pre-breakfast run in the morning until lights-out at night, the days are crammed with skiing activity. The program is a strenuous one, and a tribute to the stamina both of pupils and of instructors. It is hoped in this way to develop for national and international competition skiers of whom Alberta can be proud, and to offer every ski-struck youngster with ambition and ability, a chance to try his (or her) hand at competitive skiing.

Continue Program

The junior group (fourteen to eighteen-year-olds) will continue with the program of previous years, but with a degree of specialization. Nordic training will be given at Jasper, and Alpine training in downhill and slalom racing will continue, as in previous years, at Banff. The Alpine program will be climaxed by the Brewster Memorial Grand Slalom and Whitehorn Downhill races. The best of the junior skiers, under the joint sponsorship of the provincial government and the Alberta Division, C.A.S.A., will compete in the Dominion Junior Ski Championship at Port Arthur, Ontario, February 23 to 25.

A direct result of Alberta's ski schools and over-all junior program has been an invitation (the first of its kind for our province) extended to five Alberta boys and girls to train with Canada's "B" ski team at Kimberley from December 26 - 31. These are the same enthusiastic boys whose skiing won first place for their team in the last dominion junior meet, and the girl was the winner of Alberta's only individual title. The Canadian

"B" team is a farm team for the national or "A" team, now training and competing in Europe. These two teams will probably provide Canada's Olympic skiers for the Winter Games in 1964. It is fervently hoped that Alberta will be represented when the 1964 Olympic team is chosen.

The stress this year upon competitive skiing for all interested young people has probably been accentuated by the selection of the Banff and Lake Louise area as Canada's choice in her bid for the 1968 Winter Olympics. If Canada should be successful in her efforts to obtain the Games, Alberta will doubtless have many competent skiers on hand.

Still Recreation

It is not forgotten, however, that the majority of skiers are interested in skiing as recreation. The ski clubs provide instruction for all—from the grandparents to the pre-schoolers, for the better the skiing, the greater the fun. Besides, what skier was ever satisfied with his ability? Information about ski instruction or competition may be obtained by writing Mr. Garry Blackburn, President, Alberta Division, Canadian Amateur Ski Association, 2816 - 4th Ave. N.W., Calgary, Alberta.

With incredibly beautiful mountain resorts, devoted ski clubs, a growing number of qualified instructors, a comprehensive juvenile and junior program, and increasing participation in national events, skiing in Alberta, like a bright, well-trained child, promises a glittering future.

Summer School Located 'Mid History-Rich Area

**SUMMER SCHOOL, 1961 at the
IMMACULATE HEART COLLEGE IN
LOS ANGELES**

Detta B. Lange,
Director of Arts
The City of Edmonton Recreation
Department

Of course life is beautiful in California — everything — temperature, vegetation, magnolias, oleanders, orange trees and palm trees growing and blooming against a beautiful clear, blue sky. Street names—Oliveras Street, Santa Monica Boulevard, The Greek Theatre—and so on—tell of History and Spaniards and Mexico.

I wished that I could say thank you to all I had met this summer and to all who helped to make this experience possible, in as great a manner as the young Italian bricklayer, Simon Rodio, whose story is alive in

my mind. He came to Los Angeles, and, loving this country so much, decided to build a monument worthy of his great countryman Michael Angelo, whom he so admired—his monument is the Watts Towers. They are located in Watt, a section of the City populated by coloured people and Mexicans. These towers grow anew with every wandering glance of the visitor, high into the sky. They are fine reinforced steel constructions covered with the colourful patterns made from old glass bottles, ceramic chips, and bottle tops set into cement.

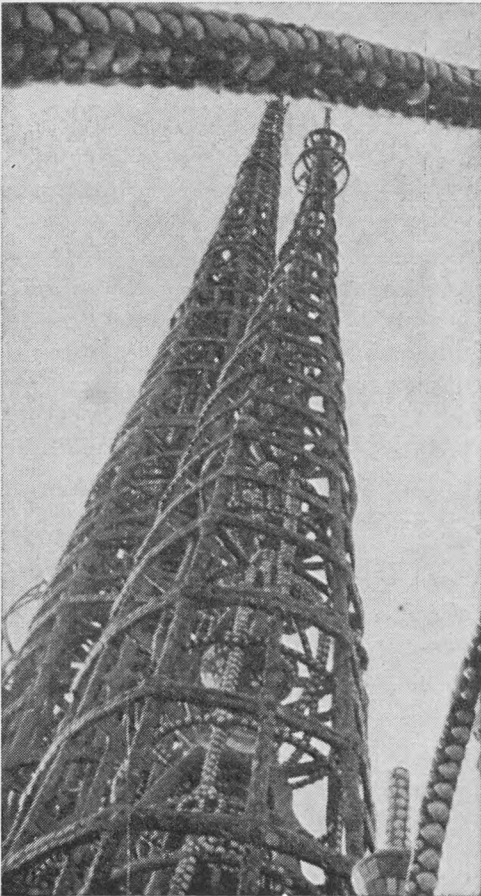
The courses I took part in were:
Art Education, by Sister Corita, Paint-

Miss Detta B. Lange is Director of Arts, for the City of Edmonton Recreation Department.

ing and Serigraph by Sister Magdalene Mary and Art History by Dr. LaPorte. These were four double sessions each day and I thought when I registered that I would have plenty of time for myself. I soon found that this was not the case as my four double sessions meant a day starting with a lecture at 8:00 a.m. leaving 9:00-12:30 for study and assignments, 1:00-5:00 p.m. and 6:00-10:00 p.m. Art Education and Serigraph classes. Part of the assignments was reading, writing essays

about the assigned reading and the different localities each student had to visit. Clear in my memory is the mathematics exhibit at the Science Building. Looking at this exhibit I felt reverence for mankind and its steady development of intellectual inheritance.

Places I visited included the Greek Theatre, where I encountered Jose Greco and his troupe, and a sell-out performance of Harry Belafonte, where



*A view of a portion of the unique
Watt Towers.*

people without tickets sat in trees, surrounding this open air theatre in abundance, to listen to this popular singer. Other places were—the musty second-hand book store on Hollywood Boulevard, where I spent hours—Chinatown—the Flower Market, and so much more.

All was so real and beautiful. Bus drivers are helpful or are trying to be, "Now Madam, you don't really want to go to Watt." "But yes, I want to see the towers." I saw the towers, I admired them, and, knowing that I might not so soon wander again through the so-human streets of Watt, I did it this time for hours.

Wandering thus I was attracted by young voices singing in intoxicating rhythm. I quietly entered an old Baptist Church (which was in no way recognizable as such), and found a service in progress. A white-haired Negro led me to a pew and gave me a hymn-book. I sat down with some slight embarrassment. But this soon vanished as I was so amazed by what I witnessed. The spirited sermon of the priest delivered sometimes with sobs, tears in his eyes, or with thundering voice like the Angel of the Last Judgement, then again tenderly and quiet, even singing and always accompanied by the expressive movements of his body as if in agony sometimes, and very relaxed at others, fitting the content of his preachings. Steadily answered the voices of the congregation, "O Lordy!" . . . "Amen!" . . . or "Yes, sir!" Little children walked unconcerned back and forth from the washrooms looking like advertisements for clear starch.

I never hoped to encounter such an experience and found my whole afternoon in Watt a delight.

But the School!

The Art department consists of several rooms, all walls covered with objects of art from all countries and all times. Thus the student is always surrounded by excellence. "Education is for excellence. Education involves experience, experience in excellence. Perhaps the more often and the more fully we can have experiences with excellent things the better educated we will be here . . . and the better equipped to respond to full excellence hereafter." (Sister Mary Corita)

Any student open to these surroundings, discovers, with every glance, something beautiful and every day something new, as nothing there, is ever really in an obvious order or tidiness—though there is an admiring higher order designed to wake you up, to make you see, search and solve problems on your own. "Art is ability to face problems and solve them. Art training is training to respond to values . . ." These quote are from the Sisters' many hours speaking about Art in class or in private conversations.

The Art department rooms are linked together by patios surrounded by arcades filled with paintings done by students in the past year. One room is called the "drawing room", "because it sounds good", says Sister Magdalene Mary, "and secondly, sometimes students draw there."

The other is the music room, not that there are any more glorious music boxes here than in the drawing room, but it is the room where the juke box is and where I used to sit and listen to Henry Miller's voice reminiscing on his life and also listened to music for hours. Too, students draw in the music room which is also the ceramics room and it has the peanut-vendor music box and many other good things. Then there are the Sisters' rooms, filled with beautiful, exciting things—one cannot use these rooms for anything but looking. The Art History room, like all the three rooms, is full of precious objects, from antique children's toys to ecclesiastical and other art—music instruments from India, shadow puppets from Java and books—this is also the library, and Sister Corita's library system is again a challenge to one's intelligence, sensitivity and consideration.

Art and Tradition

"The word tradition means a handing on—it is a double process of receiving from those who have gone before, a passing on to those who are to come, and, where a tradition is really living, it must in consequence change from generation to generation; it must be enriched by the thought and the labours of each succeeding age, and it is in that work of adopting and enriching a material environment that man's personality reaches its natural completion, a statement of policy and purpose, measuring and exploring, shaping and presenting, sharing . . ."

Six weeks is not enough to even understand the task this school has set out to achieve. To me, it is the attitude and spirit which should exist in every place of learning. The most valuable observation I made, in evaluating this school, was that the Sisters and other instructors really succeeded in awakening in at least 50% or more of all students, an awareness and appreciation of art, in all phrases, up to the present forms, and with it understanding of how the inheritance left to us by the people of the past equips us to "make a life rather than a living."

I would like to conclude with the words of Sister Magdalene Mary who once said about someone "He is a professional only in those areas where he already knows the answers . . . where he finds no problems. No man in his role of professional ever had a creative thought . . . ever performed a creative act . . . for these are in the realm of the Unknown. A professional feels insecure in this realm. Only the searcher (one who loves) is familiar with the process of delving into the unknown . . . into a place where he has never been before . . . he is secure because it is the only home he knows. It is man in his role of searching that has contributed to man's progress . . . both material and im-material . . . a great man is at home in both roles . . . great men are those who stand out from the crowd. There are not many because it is a lonesome world . . . as they say . . ."

"All ignorance toboggans into know and trudges up into ignorance again."

BOOKS IN REVIEW

The sometimes fierce sentiment that some attach to the tartan, or to a particular tartan, is often sadly misplaced. In her striking publication "**Tartans**", author **Christan Hesketh** points out that many tartans steeped in supposed centuries of tradition are barely one century old. Nonetheless, the current attachments to the design, its early use compared with its present day use, are carefully researched by Lady Hesketh. The 128 page volume is profusely illustrated with color and black and white plates which, among other things, shows clearly how a kilt was once worn, the manner in which tartan cloaks were designed and utilized, and other interesting and authentic lore about the tartan, its designers and its significance.

McClelland and Stewart Limited, \$5.95.

One of the few remaining independently published Almanacs, **Whitaker's Almanac**, published by **J. Whitaker and Sons**, London, is an up-to-date compendium of data on public affairs, government, industry, finance, commerce, social usage and the arts. The descendants of Founder Joseph Whitaker strive for, and attain, the aloof impartiality and accuracy that made the original publisher's volume so highly regarded.

While the book is basically a library reference book there is a surprising wealth of unusual information in it for the casual reader, ranging from the legal requirements for disposal of human bodies in England and Wales, to account of the value of discovery of remains of the earliest man, description of an electric motor about the size of a period point in this paragraph, the charter of the United Nations, and the London coach routes, and museums and houses open to the public, and scores of items between. It's a fascinating volume of almost 1,200 pages.